

Writing Your Draft of a Story



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| 1. Use your Quick Sketch and your Quick Notes. | Review your plan and your notes—use them for organization. |
| 2. Create variety in your sentences. | Variety in length! Variety in kinds! Variety in the way they start! |
| 3. Include action verbs. | Stories need action. Show action with your verbs. Examples: devoured, hugged, snapped, joined, served, applauded. |
| 4. Indent and start new paragraphs to show action and change. | Stories have lots of paragraphs—short and long. Start a new paragraph when the action changes. When using dialogue, start a new paragraph each time someone different speaks. <i>(continued)</i> |

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| 5. Use story/narrative transitions effectively. | Use story/narrative transitions “here” and “there” as you begin paragraphs that show a new time or a new place. |
| 6. Develop your story; show what is happening; paint mental pictures. | With words, show the readers what is happening. Use action verbs! Help them see, hear, smell, and sense the action. |
| 7. Bring your characters to life. | Help them feel what the character(s) feel. Don’t just tell what the character is doing (or did), show the action. |
| 8. Use dialogue wisely. | Don’t use dialogue too much. Choose the right places. Have a purpose for the dialogue in your story. |
| 9. Make your ending the best part. | Give your reader a reason to remember the story, its characters, and its message. |